

still serving in the House of Representatives. After graduating from Howard, he could have chosen many different paths. He chose public service. From John's first moments on our team, it was clear that he was not only sharp and eager to work, but that he cared deeply about his fellow colleagues and that he was completely dedicated to our mission of serving the people of Maryland and the country.

When I was elected to the Senate, I was thrilled to have John move to this side of the Capitol with me. He leapt at every opportunity to advance our mission—growing from organizing and drafting letters to constituents, to taking constituent meetings, to eventually thinking of and writing legislation. He was a vibrant force on Capitol Hill both in our office and outside of it, and was an active member of the Senate Black Legislative Staff Caucus.

When our Senate office first divided up issues among our legislative correspondents, John chose to take responsibility for some of the hottest button issues, like criminal justice reform and public safety, that demanded an open ear and a welcoming heart. He worked on gun issues and spoke to constituents who had experienced personal tragedies from gun violence, and he always brought their feelings to his work on legislation to strengthen our gun laws. When the previous administration was trying to dismantle parts of the civil service, John met with and helped Federal employees who feared they might lose their jobs at any moment. In a million different ways, John proved that empathy has a home in public service and can even direct the course of policy changes.

When we decided to hold a hearing on the hardships that Postal Service delays were imposing on Americans, John remembered a meeting he had held months earlier with a group from the National Federation of the Blind, where they discussed the real challenges they were experiencing because of the long delays in the delivery of their essential materials. John was moved by their stories at the time, and he lifted their voices. At his suggestion, we invited a member of that group to testify, and their moving and powerful testimony is now leading the changes that will help every American. That was John—listening and then bringing people's voices into the public square to change lives for the better.

John brought empathy to his work and to the office, but he also brought great joy. His desk was a must-stop place for members of our team throughout the day. People would stop by to share his company, to hear his loud and infectious laugh, to talk about the latest news of the day, or—I have been told—to joke about the craziest couple on "90 Day Fiance," which, on the enthusiastic recommendation of John and a few others, built quite a following in our office among current and past staff. I was not sure what to think about all that when I learned about it.

John brought joy with his wry wit and keen sense of the absurd—always taking his work seriously, but never taking himself too seriously. He had a critical skill on Capitol Hill—the ability to track down House and Senate receptions with the very best food, and then alert his colleagues to the spoils. If someone couldn't get away from the office, he would bring back snacks to share, pulling treats out of his pockets like a magician.

He was a true member of our office family and always a team player, always willing to advance our causes on behalf of our constituents. And in coming to know his family, I can see where those qualities began. You could see that he was supported by his beloved mother, Kimberley Davis, in the way he supported our team—always ready to help out and pitch in for the mission. You could see that he was helped and mentored by his uncles and aunts in the way he helped and mentored the new members of our office whom he worked with.

Today, in the gallery, in addition to John's mother, Kimberley, we are joined by his uncle John and John's wife, Carol; and Christian Gibbs, who was like an uncle to John.

You could see how much John was loved by those closest to him by how much he loved and embraced others, and he, in turn, was loved and respected by our entire Capitol Hill family. He was an example to all of us of a person who put everyone else's challenges ahead of his own.

Our office wants to hold John Amara Walters up as a model to other young people who walk through our doors. As I mentioned, John began his service with us when he was an intern, and we have decided to establish a permanent paid internship position in John's name and memory, and that position will always go to a student from Maryland who is attending Howard University.

In that way, we know that the young leaders of the future will learn about John's spirit and his legacy and learn to carry forward his torch of empathy and positive change.

John wanted to help others. He wanted to leave the world better than he found it. He did that and much more. While his life was far too short in years, it was long in the joy and the love he shared and in the lives he changed for the better.

Thank you, John. We love you.
I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Robinson nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Beth Robinson, of Vermont, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

VOTE ON ROBINSON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Robinson nomination?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 449 Ex.]

YEAS—51

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Hickenlooper | Peters |
| Bennet | Hirono | Reed |
| Blumenthal | Kaine | Rosen |
| Booker | Kelly | Sanders |
| Brown | King | Schatz |
| Cantwell | Klobuchar | Schumer |
| Cardin | Leahy | Shaheen |
| Carper | Lujan | Sinema |
| Casey | Manchin | Smith |
| Collins | Markey | Stabenow |
| Coons | Menendez | Tester |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | Murkowski | Warner |
| Durbin | Murphy | Warnock |
| Feinstein | Murray | Warren |
| Hassan | Ossoff | Whitehouse |
| Heinrich | Padilla | Wyden |

NAYS—45

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Fischer | Moran |
| Blackburn | Graham | Paul |
| Blunt | Grassley | Portman |
| Boozman | Hagerty | Risch |
| Braun | Hawley | Romney |
| Burr | Hoeven | Sasse |
| Capito | Hyde-Smith | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Inhofe | Scott (SC) |
| Cornyn | Johnson | Shelby |
| Cotton | Kennedy | Sullivan |
| Cramer | Lankford | Thune |
| Crapo | Lee | Toomey |
| Cruz | Lummis | Tuberville |
| Daines | Marshall | Wicker |
| Ernst | McConnell | Young |

NOT VOTING—4

| | |
|------------|--------|
| Gillibrand | Rubio |
| Rounds | Tillis |

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Heytens nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Toby J. Heytens, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

VOTE ON HEYTENS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Heytens nomination?

Mr. BENNET. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?